

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05

L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

XMB-02 /096 R

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USDA:JRIESZ (SUBS)

ARA/CEN:MMBOVA

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P R 272252Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRG, EAGR

SUBJECT: 1976 MEAT IMPORT PROGRAM

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REF: SAN JOSE 1983

1. COMMENT ON ALTERNATIVES TO COMPLETION OF VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENTS WITH SIGNIFICANT MEAT SUPPLIERS IS HYPOTHETICAL AT THIS TIME BECAUSE WE EXPECT THAT ALL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH WE ARE NEGOTIATING WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE 1976 PROGRAM.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE EMBASSY'S QUERY, HOWEVER, WE CAN POINT OUT THAT THE MEAT IMPORT ACT (PL 88-482) REQUIRES MANDATORY QUOTAS AT THE ADJUSTED BASE QUANTITY (9 PERCENT BELOW THE TRIGGER) IF THE QUARTERLY ESTIMATE OF IMPORTS BY THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE EQUALS OR EXCEEDS 110 PERCENT OF THE ADJUSTED BASE QUANTITY. IN HIS LATEST QUARTERLY ESTIMATE FOR THE PRESIDENT, SECRETARY BUTZ WROTE, "WERE IT NOT FOR THE EXPECTED VOLUNTARY AGREEMENTS WITH SUPPLYING COUNTRIES, THE ESTIMATE WOULD HAVE EXCEEDED 110 PERCENT OF THE ADJUSTED BASE QUANTITY REQUIRING YOU TO IMPOSE LIMITATIONS UNDER THE ACT."

3. THE TEXT OF EACH VOLUNTARY RESTRAINT AGREEMENT, TRANSMITTED IN STATE 98056, INCLUDES THE UNDERSTANDING THAT SIMILAR AGREEMENTS WILL BE CONCLUDED WITH OTHER SIGNIFICANT MEAT SUPPLIERS.

4. FAILURE TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH A SIGNIFICANT SUPPLIER, SUCH AS COSTA RICA, WOULD LIKELY RESULT IN AN ESTIMATE OF IMPORTS ABOVE THE TRIGGER LEVEL AND MANDATORY QUOTAS. SISCO

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Draft Date: 27 APR 1976
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